

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ARRESTS BY GOVERNMENT

REF: PANAMA 0441

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF ONE-PAGE, SINGLE-SPACED LEAFLET BEING DISTRIBUTED IN STREETS OF PANAMA WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, ON BEHALF OF GROUP WHICH MET AT APEDE BUILDING LAST NIGHT, ENTITLED "OUR RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT": NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE ANTIDEMOCRATIC MEASURE OF THE EXILE OF THE DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS (FOLLOWING, WHO ARE IDENTIFIED REFTEL, ARE LISTED: ALVAREZ, AIZPURUA, BOTH ROBLES, QUIROS-GUARDIA, SAMUDIO, CARLES, DOMINGUEZ, SANTAMARIA, EISENMANN, FORD) ON THE PRETEXT THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING OF JANUARY 15 HAD THE PURPOSE OF RELATING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF CHIRIQUI WITH A SUPPOSED INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT LINKED TO A UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

WITH REGARD FOR THE TRUTH, WE DECLARE THAT THE CITIZENS DETAINED OR EXILED TODAY, WHO WERE PRESENT IN CHIRIQUI, ATTENDED AT THE INVITATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CIVIC COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PANAMA, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED IN THAT
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PROVINCE AND WHICH PUBLICLY SOUGHT AMONG OTHER THINGS:

1. RECOVERY OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITION INCLUDING FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, RESPECT FOR PRIVATE INITIATIVE AND SACREDNESS OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

2. ALL PERSONS' ABILITY TO FREELY EXPRESS IDEAS IN SPEECH, WRITING OR OTHER MEDIA, WITHOUT SUPPRESSION OR PRIOR CENSORSHIP AND WITHOUT FEAR OF REPRISAL.

3. REPUDIATION OF GOVERNMENT PRACTICE OF PASSING LAWS WITHOUT CONSULTATION WHICH RETARD DEVELOPMENT OF MOST PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF COUNTRY.

4. RIGHT TO QUESTION DOGMATIC AND SECTARIAN EDUCATIONAL REFORM, WHICH SEEKS IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND WITHOUT BEING SUBJECT TO ANALYSIS BY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO JUSTIFY MEASURES ADOPTED TO DETER THESE CITIZENS ON PRETEXTS DIFFERENT FROM THEIR PROFOUND PREOCCUPATION WITH THE CRISIS IN WHICH THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN PANAMA FINDS ITSELF, WHICH IS BRINGING AS A CONSEQUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY AND METHODS WHICH ARE NEARLY COMMUNIST.

BECAUSE OF THIS, THE BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE MEETING IN PERMANENT SESSION IN THE OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PANAMANIAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES HAVE DECIDED:

1. TO DECLARE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC THAT PUBLIC LIBERTIES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.

2. TO ABSTAIN FROM ALL DEALINGS WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNTRY UNTIL SUCH TIME THE ARRESTED PERSONS ARE SET FREE, AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THOSE CITIZENS DEPORTED CONTRARY TO THE CONSTITUTION HAVE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY.

3. TO MOBILIZE ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO IMPEDE THE CONTINUATION OF THE ATTACK ON THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF THE CITIZENS.

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4. TO PATRIOTICALLY (CIVICAMENTE) OPPOSE ALL NEW PROPOSALS TO EXPATRIATE PANAMANIAN, AS THIS METHOD IS NOT ONLY ANTIDEMOCRATIC AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL, BUT IS CLEARLY ALMOST DICTATORIAL.

5. TO ORGANIZE AN INDEFINITE BUSINESS STOPPAGE (PARO", LITERALLY "LOCKOUT") UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE FORE-

GOING AIMS HAVE BEEN REALIZED.

PANAMA, JANUARY 20, 1976.

2. FOREGOING LEAFLET WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A SINGLE-PAGE,
HANDWRITTEN LEAFLET READING AS FOLLOWS:

ALERT

CIVIC, PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DECREED
A GENERAL INDEFINITE STOPPAGE ("PARO") BEGINNING AS OF TODAY,
FOR AS LONG AS THE EXPATRIATES OF YESTERDAY DO NOT RETURN.

PANAMANIAN, DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS.

TODAY THERE ARE OTHER, TOMORROW IT MAY BE YOU.

3. COPIES POUCHED ARA/PAN.

JORDEN

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